

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-13 and 18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 18 are amended for antecedence consistency. No new matter is added by any of these amendments.

Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5, 7-13 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,559,979 to Ryan. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ryan does not teach or suggest a facsimile system including, *inter alia*, a facsimile machine reading image data, a computer, transmitting to and receiving from, the facsimile machine, addressee identification information, computer-side storage means for storing the addressee identification information, computer-side referring means for fetching the addressee identification information from the computer-side storage means, computer-side output means for outputting the fetched addressee identification information to the facsimile machine in case of facsimile transmission so that the facsimile transmission is executed according to a desired piece of addressee identification information selected from the fetched addressee identification information, instruction means provided in the facsimile machine so as to instruct the computer to refer to the addressee identification information stored in the computer-side storage means in case of facsimile transmission, and a display means for displaying the addressee identification information fetched by the computer-side referring means in case of facsimile transmission so that the desired piece of addressee identification information is selected at the facsimile machine side, as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited for circuits in claim 18.

Instead, Ryan discloses a facsimile machine 10 connected to a network 60. In particular, Ryan teaches the facsimile machine 10 having a PC interface 157 to communicate with a computer 50 via an interface 508. See col. 3, lines 26-37 and Fig. 5 of Ryan.

The computer 50 of Ryan stores a function table with a user identification number and a function corresponding to the user identification number. See Fig. 6 of Ryan. A ten-key set 141 of the facsimile machine 10 is operated so that the user identification number is input. When a function key 144 followed by a start key 142 are operated, the function corresponding to the input user identification number is executed. These functions of Ryan include facsimile transmission, copying, e-mail transmission or the like. Furthermore, the function table is renewed and a new function can be added.

However, Ryan fails to teach or suggest the computer-side referring means for fetching the data of addressee identification information from the computer-side storage means, as recited in Applicants' features in claims 1 and 18. Accordingly, Ryan lacks features directed to selectably displaying the addressee identification information fetched by the computer-side referring means, as also recited in Applicants' claims 1 and 18.

Further, Ryan teaches output means, such as an interface, for returning information edited at the computer side. However, Ryan discloses nothing about the computer-side output means for outputting the fetched data of addressee identification information to the facsimile machine in case of facsimile transmission so that the facsimile transmission is executed according to a desired piece of addressee identification information selected from the fetched data of addressee identification information.

Also, Applicants assert that Ryan does not teach or suggest the instruction means, provided in the facsimile machine side refers, via the computer-side referring means, to the data of addressee identification information stored in the computer-side storage means in case of facsimile transmission. Nor does Ryan teach or suggest the display means for displaying the data of addressee identification information fetched by the computer-side referring means in case of facsimile transmission so that the desired piece of addressee identification information is selected at the facsimile machine side.

The contents of Ryan, set on the facsimile side, are confirmed at the computer side or are changed by way of operation at the computer side and the changed contents are recorded at the facsimile machine. The set information is thus stored in the facsimile finally. The user at the facsimile side can select functions or information only from the set information stored in the facsimile machine.

In contrast, the features recited in Applicants' claims 1 and 18 enable addressee identification information being stored at the computer side irrespective of the set information stored in the facsimile machine, thus allowing the addressee identification information stored at the computer side to be used in the facsimile machine.

Applicants respectfully assert that Ryan fails to teach or suggest any devices to enable an operator to retrieve information from the computer to the facsimile machine, or to register the information. A claim must be anticipated for a proper rejection under §102(a), (b) and (e). This requirement is satisfied "only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." See MPEP §2131. Applicants respectfully submit that Ryan fails to provide all of Applicants' claimed features. Therefore, the Office Action has not satisfied the burden of anticipating Applicants' claims with the applied reference.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that the independent claims are now patentable over the applied reference. The dependent claims are likewise patentable over the applied reference for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Consequently, all the claims are in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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